

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: August 9, 2004

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Steve Talley, Chairman
Ron Gibson
Becky Langsford
Angela Mansfield
Jackie Nytes
Marilyn Pfisterer

Absent Members

Mike Speedy

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 380, 2004 – establishes advisory committees of citizens in each township to review revisions of the comprehensive plan in each township of Marion County

“Do Pass As Amended”

Vote: 6-0

BUDGET HEARING

County Recorder
Soil and Water Conservation
County Surveyor

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, August 9, 2004. Chairman Steve Talley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Ron Gibson, Becky Langsford, Jackie Nytes, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Angela Mansfield. Absent was Mike Speedy. Also present was Councillor Bob Cockrum.

PROPOSAL 380, 2004 – establishes advisory committee of citizens in each township to review of the comprehensive plan in each township of Marion County

Councillor Cockrum explained Exhibit A and said after the July 26, 2004 Metropolitan Development Committee meeting, he met with some people from Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations (MCANA) in regards to the proposal being postponed and to come to some agreement of the revised wording in the ordinance.

Councillor Cockrum asked if there will be a motion to replace the original proposal of the ordinance he presented July 26, 2004. Chairman Talley said not at this time as there is another presentation on a proposed amendment to the ordinance. Councillor Cockrum asked for consent to go over the changes made to the proposal. Chairman Talley gave consent.

Councillor Cockrum said the revisions that were made are:

- Increase the number of members from seven to nine.
- The Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) planner is a non-voting resource person.
- Three of the residents nominated by the Township Board shall be persons recommended by neighborhood organizations registered with the City.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if all the revisions came from MCANA. Councillor Cockrum said most of the revisions were from MCANA, but not all.

Chairman Talley asked if a representative from DMD was a part of the meeting. Councillor Cockrum responded in the negative.

Michael Peoni, administrator of the Planning Division for DMD, said DMD staff has the responsibility of updating the comprehensive plan and looked at the proposal from a practicality standpoint. Mr. Peoni explained DMD suggestions in Exhibit B. He said this amendment would encourage cooperation between the advisory committee and DMD staff and better integrate the advisory committee activities within the overall process.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if Mr. Peoni could elaborate more on the composition of the township comprehensive plan. Mr. Peoni explained the composition of the plan (also in Exhibit B) and said it was their thinking that the intent of the law was to provide citizens

the opportunity to participate in a process in an organized structure form. Therefore, they also deleted a member of DMD as being part of the committee and as well deleted the Township Assessor and Trustee. He said in place of the Township Assessor, their recommendation would be a township resident appointed by the Council; and in place of the Township Trustee would be a township resident appointed by the Metropolitan Development Commission. He said by including business owners and residents to the members of the board, this will provide a more balanced participation within the board.

Councillor Pfisterer said in her thinking the Township Assessor would be very helpful on the committee because of their specific knowledge of the township. Mr. Peoni agreed and said he believes a City planner would also be helpful to the process. He said that no one would exclude the Assessor from being involved in the process and providing information to the committee. They felt it would be better not to have the committee itself composed of anyone other than residents. Councillor Pfisterer asked if MCANA made any recommendations on these changes. Councillor Cockrum said the original proposal was for the Township Assessor and Trustee to be members, and at this time they had no objections to those two positions. Councillor Pfisterer said in her view the Township Trustee may not be much of a resource as the Township Assessor would be. She said it would be beneficial to have the Township Assessor added to the committee. Councillor Cockrum said out of the four elected township officials they felt the Township Assessor and Trustee would be more likely to be involved in zoning questions from the public.

Councillor Gibson said he supports Mr. Peoni's amendment (Exhibit B). DMD has made a good suggestion regarding the body of citizens to be included in the committee. He said this is a good way to open up government and have full view and advisement from the residents. Councillor Gibson moved seconded by Councillor Nytes, to "Amend" Proposal No. 380, 2004 as per Exhibit B.

Pat Andrews, Vice-President of MCANA, said there is some valuable information in the first amendment offered (Exhibit A) that she would like to see retained. She said they would like to see that the advisory committee is set up prior to any step of the comprehensive plan. In Exhibit B, item (b) 4, they would like to see the word "may" changed to "shall" as a requirement upon the committee to make a report. She said MCANA would like to see item (d) expanded to 13 members by expanding item (d)1 to two appointees by the Council; (d)2 to two appointees by the Metropolitan Development Commission; and (d)3 to two appointees by the Mayor. She said she would like to see item (d)4 expanded to seven residents of the township nominated by the township board, one person who owns a business, one member of the township board, and five township residents who are "recommended" by a neighborhood organization registered with the City.

Jack Sandlin, Perry Township Trustee, said this ordinance needs to move forward to allow people in the townships to have an organized representation in the comprehensive plan update. He said it may not be intentionally, but citizens are sometimes not properly notified of meetings held in the community.

Councillor Cockrum said he is concern about having some of the appointees appointed by the Mayor, due to the Mayor having an appointee to the Airport Authority Commission and the Mayor has yet to reappoint the deceased appointee.

Councillor Nytes said she would like to see the committee stay with seven members and also agreed that the strength of Exhibit B was having a business owner as a part of the committee. This will help with having a great dialogue between business owners and the residents of the neighborhood. Councillor Nytes made a motion to further amend, Exhibit B to change the “may” to “shall” in item (b) 4. She said if they are going to have these meetings, then the committee is better off having documents on these meetings.

Chairman Talley said procedurally they should adopt the substitute version and then amend the proposal.

Councillor Gibson said the township elected officials should always have a voice in any process that is going on in the township. He said if they feel left out he encourages them to get more actively involved.

Mr. Peoni said that they agree the committee members should follow Robert’s Rules of Order and will not be opposed to increasing the size of the committee, if appropriate.

Chairman Talley called for a vote on the motion to “Amend” Proposal No. 380, 2004 as per Exhibit B. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to “amend” the substitute version of Proposal No. 380, 2004, by changing “may” to “shall” in item (b) 4. The motion carried by 6-0 vote.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to send Proposal No. 380, 2004 to the full Council with a “Do Pass As Amended” recommendation. The motion carried by vote of 6-0.

Councillor Nytes said if a failure occurs to appoint someone to a position, she would appreciate if staff could bring that to the attention of the appointing body.

Chairman Talley agreed and said this also should include the attendance of staff on the committee.

BUDGET HEARING

County Recorder

Wanda Martin, Marion County Recorder, said the County Recorder is required to record any document meeting statutory recording requirements, such as deeds, liens, mortgages,

etc. These recorded documents are public record and the Recorder must maintain an index of these documents. She said in 2003 it was a record-breaking year for their office. They recorded 277,099 documents, which is 1,113 documents per day. At the end of July, 2004 their office has already recorded 150,843 documents. She said they generate two revenues in the office; one is from the County General Fund from recording fees and the

second is the Recorders Perpetuation Fund, a special revenue fund that is comprised of copy fees, supplemental recording fees, and the sale of CDs (images of all documents). She said their new Redundant Array of Independent Disks System (RAID), which allows greater efficiency for the public will fund the bulk of their budget and is made up of user fees and no tax dollars. She said some of the goals she would like to accomplish while in office is to implement electronic recordings and to enable larger customers to record online to free up personnel to help with other customers. She would also like to have the capability of accepting charge cards to allow the office to be more user friendly for taxpayers.

Councillor Nytes asked if they appropriate out of the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund. Dan Jones, Deputy Auditor, said the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund will be on the appropriation ordinance, but by statute the Recorder's office is not required to. Ms. Martin said she does this as a courtesy. Councillor Nytes asked what it will take to allow the Recorder's Office to accept charge cards. Ms. Martin said everything is in line to accept charge cards. It is the matter of purchasing the equipment. Councillor Nytes asked if charge cards are used anywhere else in the City or County. Mr. Jones said the Treasurer's Office accepts charge cards. Councillor Nytes asked if they could piggyback on the same system as the Treasurer's Office. Ms. Martin said she will check into it.

Councillor Mansfield asked if the fees from the charge card companies would be offset by the increase in possible revenue. Ms. Martin said this is one of the reasons why she has not implemented the use of charge cards yet, as they are looking into the charges.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if they have the ability to use charge cards, will they have sales from out-of-state customers. Ms. Martin replied in the affirmative. Councillor Pfisterer said this will increase their revenue. Councillor Pfisterer asked if Ms. Martin had any other suggestions to increase the efficiency and revenue in their office. Ms. Martin suggested electronic recordings to allow customers to scan in their documents instead of actually coming down to the office.

Councillor Nytes asked where the \$900,000 increase between 2004 and 2005 in the proposed 2005 budget comes from. Ms. Martin said there was an increase in Line Item 359, Building Rent/Building Security, but not \$900,000 worth. Mr. Jones said there was a substantial increase from 2003 to 2004 for employee benefits. Councillor Nytes said she understands the increase; this is why she added together the 2004 revised budget from both revenue funds and the 2005 budget and noticed about a \$900,000 increase. Mr. Jones directed Councillor Nytes to the Recorder's proposed budget of total amounts. He

said in 2004, the sum for both funds was \$2.5 million. The 2005 proposed budget is \$2.8 million, and the sum requested by the department is \$2.9 million. This is an increase of \$231,000. Councillor Nytes asked if the \$2.5 million in 2004 is both the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund and the County General Fund. Mr. Jones replied in the affirmative. Councillor Nytes asked if the Recorder's office is more responsible for the share of building rental and security than other agencies. Mr. Jones said they are no more responsible than any other agency. This charge is allocated by square foot basis. Councillor Nytes asked if they are going to see these increases in all the other agencies'

budgets. Mr. Jones replied in the negative but did not have the proper information to explain the increase in the Recorder's proposed budget.

Soil and Water Conservation

Mr. Jones said the Soil and Water Conservation district is within the Auditor's proposed budget under Line Item 380, Subsidies, in the amount of \$147,625 from the County General Fund.

Mark Kautz, Supervisor, said their operator budget comes from the County but they are not County employees. They work very closely with the City, County, State, and Federal governments. He said their proposed budget is the same amount they operated under in 2004.

Councillor Mansfield asked how what they do that is different from what Public Works does. Mr. Kautz said they are unique in the way of being able to help private land owners and can offer technical support. Councillor Mansfield asked if they work with drainage contractors or are they more of consultants for homeowners. Mr. Kautz said they are more like consultants.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if their employees are volunteers. Mr. Kautz said they have four employees who receive salaries. Councillor Pfisterer asked for details on the new activities they are initiating. Mr. Kautz said they are now charging a fee for area photographs, soil survey, and other services. They are also holding an annual tree sale and are actively looking for grant money. Councillor Pfisterer asked if the grants will be used to fund additional programs or to self-fund. Bob Eddleman, Supervisor, said some of the money will be used for additional activities.

Mr. Jones addressed Councillor Pfisterer's question in regards to salary. He said the reason why they see no figure in Character 01, Personal Services, is because they are not Marion County employees. They are employees for different agencies. The appropriation from the Auditor's office is from Character 03, Other Services and Charges. Their salaries are paid through a separate fund from the State or Federal government.

Mr. Eddleman said they actually write the checks of the four employees' salaries through the \$146,000 grant.

Councillor Talley asked how one would engage in looking into soil erosions. Mr. Kautz said citizens could contact their office or they can obtain referrals from the City, County, Department of Natural Resources, township administrators, etc.

County Surveyor

Jack Irwin, Surveyor, said in their 2005 proposed budget they are asking for \$555,300 from the County General Fund and \$172,455 from the Surveyor's Perpetuation Fund for a combined budget of \$727,755. He said in their budget they fund the budget for fringes, which represents township and county government. He said this budget has been cut in Character 03, Other Services and Charges, Line Item 390, from \$36,600 to \$18,658. He said he went to their Perpetuation Fund for an extra \$10,000 to make up the difference. This is information he just received, therefore this will not be represented in the proposed budget the Council has.

Mr. Jones said during the Review and Analysis part of the budget, they will have to offer an amendment to the Perpetuation Fund in Character 03 increasing it by \$10,000.

Councillor Nytes asked if they have a relatively decent fund balance in their Perpetuation Fund. Mr. Irwin replied in the affirmative. Councillor Nytes asked what charges in their office puts money into their Perpetuation Fund. Mr. Irwin said for every deed that is filed in the County Recorder's office, money goes into their Perpetuation Fund.

Councillor Pfisterer asked how better technology in their office can help provide better service and cut costs. Mr. Irwin said the Geographical Positioning Satellite (GPS) equipment is helpful because it saves time and prevents employees from being in the streets and is very accurate. Councillor Pfisterer asked if they are improving accuracy or simply maintaining. Mr. Irwin said they are improving accuracy with the equipment and it is safer. Councillor Pfisterer asked if they can offer these services to other City-County agencies. Mr. Irwin said they thought about doing this, but for some reason it has yet to be done.

Kent Burrow, Chief Financial Officer, asked if the balance from December 31, 2003 for the Surveyor's Perpetuation Fund is available. Mr. Jones said the information will be in the County comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). Mr. Burrow asked when they can expect a copy of the report. Mr. Jones said any day now.

Metropolitan Development Committee

July 26, 2004

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CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Talley, Chairman
Metropolitan Development Committee

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